

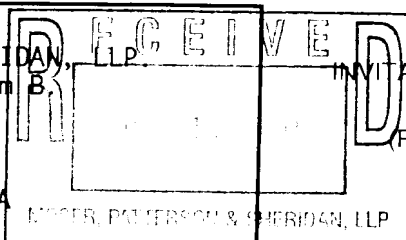
PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, LLP
Attn. Patterson, William B.
3040 Post Oak Blvd.
Suite 1500
HOUSTON, TX 77056
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



INVITATION TO PAY ADDITIONAL FEES
(PCT Article 17(3)(a) and Rule 40.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference AMAT/4969 PC	Date of mailing (day/month/year) 11/07/2002
International application No. PCT/US 01/ 42412	International filing date (day/month/year) 01/10/2001
Applicant APPLIED MATERIALS, INC.	

1. This International Searching Authority

- (i) considers that there are 2 (number of) inventions claimed in the international application covered by the claims indicated ~~below~~ on the extra sheet:

and it considers that the international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention (Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3) for the reasons indicated ~~below~~ on the extra sheet:

- (ii) ☒ has carried out a partial international search (see Annex) ☐ will establish the international search report on those parts of the international application which relate to the invention first mentioned in claims Nos.:

1-18

- (iii) will establish the international search report on the other parts of the international application only if, and to the extent to which, additional fees are paid

2. The applicant is hereby **invited**, within the time limit indicated above, to pay the amount indicated below:

EUR 945,00 x 1 = EUR 945,00
 Fee per additional invention number of additional inventions total amount of additional fees

Or, _____ x _____ = _____

The applicant is informed that, according to Rule 40.2(c), **the payment of any additional fee may be made under protest**, i.e., a reasoned statement to the effect that the international application complies with the requirement of unity of invention or that the amount of the required additional fee is excessive.

3. ☐ Claim(s) Nos. _____ have been found to be unsearchable under Article 17(2)(b) because of defects under Article 17(2)(a) and therefore have not been included with any invention.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority
 European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk
 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl.
 Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Gennaro Cappiello

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-18

Integrated bevel cleaning apparatus and method therefor

2. Claims: 19-22

System for processing substrates

First invention :

The first group of claims is about an IBC (Integrated Bevel Cleaning) apparatus (see claim 1) and a method for using such an apparatus (see claim 14). The apparatus comprises a transfer position (for loading/unloading wafers from/to outside), a rinse position and an etch position where the substrate edge bead is removed; an actuator moves the substrate in the different positions i.e. the transfer, the rinse and the etch position.

Second invention :

The second group of claims is about a system for processing substrates comprising an IBC apparatus that forms a connection between a loading/unloading region and a process region. A substrate can be passed from the loading region to the process region through the IBC apparatus without being processed in said IBC apparatus.

The following reasoning is based on the guidelines of the PCT-Gazette (S-03/1998), annex B, section 4. After taking into account the found documents, a special technical feature as defined in Rule 13(2)PCT is present in claims 1 and 14 and is the fact that the IBC apparatus comprises an actuator for moving the wafer in 3 different positions : the transfer position (the lower position), the rinse position (the intermediate position) and the etch position (the upper position). The second group of claims doesn't mention this feature (i.e. the 3 different positions) and describes an IBC apparatus that forms a connective link between two regions ; the use of this apparatus is double : either it is used as a process chamber and a wafer is treated inside (for etching and rinsing), or it is used as a transfer chamber and a wafer is transferred through the IBC apparatus from a loading area to a process area (for electroplating). The advantage is that less units are needed.

The two groups of claims are not linked by common or corresponding technical features and define two different inventions, not linked by a single general inventive concept. The application, hence does not meet the requirements of Unity of Invention as defined in rules 13(1) and 13(2) PCT.

INVITATION TO PAY ADDITIONAL FEES

International application No.

PCT/US 01/42412

**COMMUNICATION RELATING TO THE RESULTS
OF THE PARTIAL INTERNATIONAL SEARCH**

International Application No

PCT/US 01/42412

1. The present communication is an Annex to the invitation to pay additional fees (Form PCT/ISA/206). It shows the results of the international search established on the parts of the international application which relate to the invention first mentioned in claims Nos. 1-18
2. This communication is not the international search report which will be established according to Article 18 and Rule 43.
3. If the applicant does not pay any additional search fees, the information appearing in this communication will be considered as the result of the international search and will be included as such in the international search report.
4. If the applicant pays additional fees, the international search report will contain both the information appearing in this communication and the results of the international search on other parts of the international application for which such fees will have been paid.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No
A	US 6 114 254 A (ROLFSON) 5 September 2000 (2000-09-05) column 2, line 66 -column 3, line 26 ---	1, 14
A	WO 00 32835 A (APPLIED MATERIALS) 8 June 2000 (2000-06-08) page 17, line 11-28 ---	1, 14
P, X	EP 1 136 592 A (APPLIED MATERIALS) 26 September 2001 (2001-09-26) abstract; figures 5, 6 ---	1, 14
E	US 2001/037858 A1 (TANIYAMA ET AL.) 8 November 2001 (2001-11-08) column 4, line 1-51 -----	1, 14



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C



Patent family members are listed in annex

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *I* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- *Z* document member of the same patent family

Information on patent family members

International Application No.

PCT/US 01/42412

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6114254	A	05-09-2000	US 6255228 B1	03-07-2001
			US 2001009814 A1	26-07-2001
WO 0032835	A	08-06-2000	US 6254760 B1	03-07-2001
			US 6258220 B1	10-07-2001
			US 6267853 B1	31-07-2001
			WO 0032835 A2	08-06-2000
			US 2002029961 A1	14-03-2002
			US 2001000396 A1	26-04-2001
			US 2001052465 A1	20-12-2001
EP 1136592	A	26-09-2001	EP 1136592 A2	26-09-2001
			JP 2002097582 A	02-04-2002
US 2001037858	A1	08-11-2001	JP 2001319909 A	16-11-2001
			JP 2001319910 A	16-11-2001
			JP 2001319849 A	16-11-2001